Programme, etc. As lack of employment avenues and concomitant poverty are one of the major causes of migration from rural areas, the Government has instituted a number of schemes for self-employment and wage employment in rural areas. These programmes have been strengthened and enlarged to tackle the problem of poverty more effectively. In addition, programmes for building up rural infrastructure have been initiated under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). To give a boost to rural industrialisation and to provide benefit to rural artisans and unemployed youth, a National Programme for Rural Industrialisation has been announced with the mission to set up rural clusters. Further, the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme was launched in 1994 to facilitate the location of small scale industries in backward districts/rural areas.

Exposing some sectors to FDI

2033. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open up sectors like retail, real estate, housing, plantations etc. for foreign investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the safeguards being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) As per the present policy, FDI is not permitted in retail trade, real estate business, housing (only NRI/OCB investment is permitted) and plantations. There is no proposal for opening these sectors to FDI.

(c) Does not arise.